**HIGHLIGHTS**

- No new cases were reported in Sierra Leone in the period from 15 to 28 October 2015. If no further cases are reported, the end of the outbreak will be declared on 8 November 2015. UNICEF and partners continue to reinforce messaging around the need to remain vigilant and keep practicing safe behaviours.

- In response to the recent flare-up in the bordering Guinean district of Forécariah, UNICEF, through its implementing partners, is continuing to strengthen social mobilization activities on the need to maintain vigilance, report the influx of persons across the borders, intensify the screening, and report any rumors to the District Ebola Response Center.

- The Global Handwashing Day was celebrated on 15 October 2015. To mark the day, UNICEF facilitated the distribution of soap and engaged communities in all districts, through its implementing partners, on key messages related to the importance of hand washing.

- UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA), continued to support the implementation of Project Shield. Project Shield aims at addressing the care for survivors and the risk of resurgence of sexual transmission. UNICEF and NGO partner GOAL trained 80 survivors on 12-13 October 2015 in the Western Area, on the registration and verification process of other survivors in pilot wards. The exercise was completed on 24 October 2015. Project Shield was also launched in Bombali district, where 22 survivors were trained on psychological first aid and are ready to be deployed to support the registration and verification exercise of all survivors in the district.

- UNICEF initiated the bridge education program, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) and the District Education Office, through the orientation of 1,000 teachers across the country. The bridge education support programme, which will benefit more than 3,000 pregnant school girls, is not in parallel to the formal education system, but will serve as an opportunity for pregnant girls to access education in their communities through either community learning centres or school-based learning spaces that will facilitate their reintegration into the formal education system after giving birth.

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**SITUATION IN NUMBERS**

**As of 28 October 2015**

- **8,704**
  Confirmed cases of Ebola

- **3,589**
  Confirmed deaths from Ebola

- **1,459**
  Confirmed cases of infected children under age 18 registered by MSWGCA

- **8,624**
  Registered children who lost one or both parents due to Ebola

**UNICEF funding needs to December 2015**

USD 160 million

**UNICEF funding gap**

USD 33.7 million (21%)

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1. Source: Ministry of Health and Sanitation
2. Source: Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs (MSWGCA)
3. Funding status as of 21 October 2015
Communication for Development (C4D) and Social Mobilization (SM)\(^1\)

**Bombali**
- During the reporting period, UNICEF social mobilization partners engaged 12 catchment communities in Patebana – communities in close proximity to Robuya village where the last Ebola case in Sierra Leone was reported – through dialogue with community leaders and stakeholders to discuss the utilization of Peripheral Health Units (PHU). In addition to Ebola related fears, the community also discussed issues related to the poor quality of services. Based on feedback, the District Medical Officer visited the PHU to look at improving the quality of health services. Similar dialogues will be rolled out across other PHU catchment areas in the district.
- With technical support from UNICEF, NGO partner Focus 1000 organized an orientation programme for 66 key religious leaders (pastors and imams). These religious leaders have been engaging over 20,000 people attending churches and mosques on Ebola related discussions during Sunday and Friday prayers.

**Kambia**
- UNICEF engaged with the leadership of the Kambia District Ebola survivors’ network to discuss their health challenges and other issues related to their reintegration with their communities.
- UNICEF engaged stakeholders of two communities in Samu chiefdom (Kychem and Kassirie) on the Ebola flare-up in the bordering Guinean district of Forécariah to reinforce messages on the need to continue practicing hand washing, the reintegration of survivors in communities and maintaining vigilance. UNICEF also engaged health workers at the Kychem Health Clinic and at the Baptist Health Clinic in Kassirie on the importance of screening and triaging all persons visiting the health facility. UNICEF also visited three primary schools in Kassirie town, and sensitized staff and students on personal hygiene, frequent hand washing and avoiding complacency.

**Western Area**
- Social mobilizers from UNICEF partner organizations HFAC, Conservation Alliance, Sierra Leone Red Cross, Talented Young People Everywhere, Child welfare Society and Social Mobilization Action Consortium (SMAC) visited 2,014 communities across 69 wards (over 34,413 people) with a focus on silent wards, to disseminate key messages on not washing the dead, hand washing, safe and dignified burials and building trust in health care facilities.
- 24,683 households were reached through interpersonal dialogues and reminded of key Ebola messages, including hand washing, reporting the sick, and encouraging calls to the 117 number. 2,143 community leaders, including ward councilors, village headmen, religious leaders and 1,461 traditional leaders were engaged to support community engagement.

**Port Loko**
- UNICEF facilitated an orientation of district level representatives of the Social Mobilization stewardship project. The main objective of the orientation was to strengthen community structures, particularly the Village Development Committees during Ebola Response Phase 3.

**Silent districts**
- UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) through the Health Education Division to maintain vigilance in the silent districts. Community radio networks across all silent districts continue to mobilize the population on the need and importance of early referrals. Based on feedback received from the National Ebola Response Centre, all district social mobilization pillars have been reminded to continue meeting on a weekly basis to review the Ebola situation. As part of the strategy to getting to zero, all Paramount and Section Chiefs are being mobilized to focus on community preparedness.

**WASH**
- During the reporting period, 176,000 litres of water were delivered to 1,257 people in water stressed flood and Ebola affected communities, Ebola Treatment Units (ETU) and other health facilities.

**Kambia**
- UNICEF focused its activities on the implementation of the DFID funded rehabilitation of WASH in schools and Peripheral Health Units in the district.

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\(^1\) UNICEF is the lead agency for the UN for social mobilization and community engagement and co-chairs the Social Mobilization pillar with the Health Education Division (HED) of the MoHS
Tonkolili

On the occasion of the Global Handwashing Day, approximately 5,000 people including students, teachers, health workers and villagers celebrated the event.

Bombali

UNICEF facilitated the celebration of the Global Handwashing Day in the district in 8 schools during which 7,200 bars of soap were distributed. The celebration brought together 2,500 students, teachers and villagers.

Port Loko

UNICEF, through SALWACO, delivered 82,500 litres of water to 11 check points, reaching 742,500 people using the hand washing stations.

Western Area

In response to the floods and to ensure proper hygienic conditions for the displaced, UNICEF, through its partners Guma Valley, ADP, MASADA and SLSAV, implemented the following:

- In the Siaka Stevens National Stadium
  - Delivered 390,000 litres of water, benefiting 7,536 people.
  - Facilitated the cleaning and maintenance of 42 toilets, benefiting over 2,000 people.
  - Facilitated daily monitoring and sensitized the displaced communities on good hygiene practices.
  - Distributed bars of soap and 100 litre buckets to more than 4,600 people.
  - Supported the collection and disposal of clinical and domestic waste.
- In the Atouga stadium
  - Delivered 170,000 litres of water, benefiting 1,430 people.
  - Facilitated daily monitoring and sensitized the displaced communities on good hygiene practices.
  - Distributed bars of soap to more than 1,320 people on the Global Hand Washing Day.
  - Supported the collection and disposal of clinical and domestic waste.

Child Protection

- 2,801 children and parents from 13 districts received psychosocial support (PSS) in the reporting period, including counselling, recreational activities, healing ceremonies and mental health services.
- UNICEF, through implementing partners, registered 70 Ebola-affected children, followed-up on 362 reunified children, reunified 9 children with their families, distributed 168 family tracing and reunification (FTR) kits, engaged 499 children in activity planning and monitoring at community level, provided 519 children and families with individual and/or group counselling, while 876 children participated in recreational activities. 78 volunteers were engaged in PSS community activities.
- All 13 protection desks, supported by UNICEF, are operational and operated by staff from the MSWGCA.

Kambia

The Child Protection team continued the vulnerability assessment on children that have lost one or both parents due to Ebola. As of date, 136 orphans from 16 communities have been assessed and verified, out of which 97 are actually Ebola affected orphans and the rest are non-Ebola affected orphans. 78 of the Ebola affected orphans have been provided with full set of FTR kits, recreational and learning materials.

Bombali

- UNICEF supported the launch of Project Shield, funded by DFID, through the training of survivor advocates and social workers from the MSWGCA on the registration of all survivors in the district and the mapping of all health service providers. 22 survivors were trained on psychological first aid and are ready to be deployed to support registration and verification exercise of survivors in the district.

Port Loko

- UNICEF provided technical support to the MSWGCA with planning and coordinating field level activities related to the survivor registration and verification exercise. UNICEF also provided support to the Ministry to finalize plans to engage survivors who were not captured during the registration and verification exercise.
- UNICEF and the MSWGCA are providing technical support to partners and social workers in the identification of foster families across the 11 chiefdoms.

Western Area

- In the context of Project Shield, UNICEF and NGO partner GOAL trained 80 survivors on 12-13 October 2015 on the registration and verification process of other survivors in the pilot wards. The verification and registration of survivors was completed on 24 October 2015. The MSWGCA is currently finalizing the production of identification cards for the survivors.
Education

- UNICEF and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) continue to support the access to quality learning for all children in Ebola affected districts. UNICEF is supporting the coordination, school assessment and provision of teaching and learning materials to ensure the safe return of children to schools.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF and District Education Office (DEO) launched the first two rounds of school based teachers training in 4,400 schools on Guidance Note and protocol for safe schools in the context of Ebola. The refresher training aims at reaching all teachers (approximately 9,000) that have not been trained to remind them to adhere to safety protocols (hand washing, temperature taking, safe bay and health referral, preparation of chlorine and cleaning of surfaces/spills).
- UNICEF initiated the bridge education program to benefit more than 3,000 pregnant girls, in collaboration with the MEST and DEO, through the orientation of 1,000 teachers across the country. The teachers have been drawn from the regular teaching force and were provided with a refresher training on four core subjects: mathematics, English language, social studies and integrated sciences. The teachers also received training on PSS, life skills, and supporting pregnant girls. The bridge education support programme for pregnant school girls is not in parallel to the formal education system, but will serve as an opportunity for pregnant girls to access education through either community learning centres (CLCs) or school-based learning spaces that will facilitate their reintegration into the formal education system after giving birth. With support from UNFPA, sexual health reproduction education, PSS and mentoring will also be provided to the girls.
- In an effort to get all children back in school and encourage them to stay in school, UNICEF and MEST engaged Paramount chiefs and communities, tribal/village heads, and councilors in community based social mobilization. Workshops, bringing together 280 participants, were organized in all fourteen districts. Key messages included getting pregnant teenage girls back into school through the bridge programme.

Health

- UNICEF continued to support the MoHS (Ministry of Health and Sanitation) with the implementation of the third round of Polio National Immunization Days, which was completed on 5 October 2015. 1,464,548 children aged 0-59 months (98 per cent of the target for the campaign) were immunized against polio. Additionally, 1,636 children who defaulted for measles vaccine and 4,629 children aged between 0-23 months who defaulted for pentavalent vaccine were also vaccinated during the campaign.
- During the period, UNICEF supported the MoHS in the preparation, planning and development of materials related to the Maternal and Child Health Week. Intervention planned for the week includes the introduction of the measles second dose, vitamin A supplementation, deworming, defaulters tracing for routine Immunization and antenatal care cases defaulters. The campaign will also follow up on birth registrations. This activity is slated for 26-30 November 2015. UNICEF will be supporting the MoHS with the preparation, finalization of materials, trainings at different levels, and monitoring and supervision of the implementation.

Post-Ebola recovery and strengthening of health systems

- UNICEF continued to support and facilitate the distribution of Ebola infection prevention control (IPC) supplies to the districts. During the period under review, Port Loko and other facilities in Western Area, including decontamination team, burial teams, Rokupa, Oladuring and Princes Christiania Maternity Hospital, were supplied.

Nutrition

- 76,574 children under five were screened at community level in 89 out of 149 chiefdoms (covering 1,248 communities) in the reporting period. 1,246 (1.62 per cent) severe acute malnourished (SAM) children were identified, of whom 923\(^2\) were admitted for treatment at the Out-Patient Therapeutic Programme (OTP), while 55 children who had SAM with medical complications were referred to an In-Patient Facility (IPF)\(^3\) to receive pediatric and nutrition care. By the end of the reporting period 5,461 children received treatment. 332 boxes of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF paste) were consumed. Distribution plans were developed at district level for the OTP PHUs replenishment. This report was analyzed from Kono, Kenema, Moyamba, Kambia, Port Loko, Bombali, and Tonkolili districts (all chiefdoms).
- UNICEF supported the Food and Nutrition Directorate to preposition and provide nutrition supplies to the persons affected by the floods. 181 cartons of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF biscuits) were distributed during the period of 18 September 2015 to date. Out of 1,456 children aged 6-59 months that were screened using Measuring Mid-

\(^2\) This represents 74.1 per cent cases that attended after referral from the community. The reason for the low proportion of the SAM cases admitted in the OTP program was due to the fact that fewer caretakers attend the OTP PHUs during the rainy season. Efforts are made to encourage mothers whose children have been identified with malnutrition to attend OTP for admission and treatment

\(^3\) Those referred to IPF include cases identified in the community every week, cases coming spontaneously to the OTP and the non-resident cases, referred by health workers, who have been attending OTP for a while
Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tapes, 13 SAM children were identified and referred to the nearby Grey-Bush OTP for treatment. 258 caregivers who had children 0-5 months were given counselling sessions on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices.

Community Care Centres (CCCs)
- UNICEF continues to monitor and support 17 CCCs with essential WASH services including sanitation, waste management and water supply for drinking, personal hygiene and disinfection. Ten CCCs remain functional (80 beds capacity in Kambia and two in Kono), while seven are on standby. Water provision is continuing for the CCCs on standby to ensure that that they are ready to receive patients, if required.
- Since 17 November 2014, UNICEF-supported CCCs have triaged 36,680 patients and have detected 1,091 suspected Ebola cases across five districts. 892 of the suspected cases received supportive care at the CCCs and 199 received immediate ambulance transfers to the nearest ETU. 31 per cent of patients admitted at the CCCs came within 48 hours of symptom onset, allowing for rapid isolation and testing.
- In the past two weeks, 1,347 patients were screened for Ebola at UNICEF-supported CCCs, representing an average of 96 patients per day. Of the patients triaged, none met the Ebola case definition.

Human Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNICEF Personnel in Sierra Leone</th>
<th>Freetown</th>
<th>In the field</th>
<th>Total Staff Strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Staff</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Staff</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff on Surge and SBP</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Staff</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outsourced third party / government staff for CCCs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Media and External Communication
Press releases published by the team received a strong pick-up, especially the announcement of an innovative new project to provide education services to pregnant girls. The release was picked up by several newspapers including New Citizen, Concord Times, The Spectator, Satellite, News Watch, Sierra Express Media, Salone Times, and The Times (Freetown). Another press release for Global Handwashing Day was also widely printed including in the Education Microscope, For Di People, Salone Monitor, and Sierra Express Media. Local television station ‘Africa Young Voices’ carried a number of UNICEF-focused reports including on our support to flood victims, and our work on education and child protection.

The team also produced a variety of content, including photos for a UN Day Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) exhibition in Freetown, a web story on Community Care Centres, a blog post on UNICEF aid to flood victims and a video to show the work of the theatre for development project sharing Ebola safety messages in rural communities.

Funding
In line with the UN inter-agency response strategy for the Ebola outbreak, the revised UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) is appealing for USD 160 million for Sierra Leone to support the needs of children and communities affected by the Ebola crisis until the end of December 2015. As of 21 October 2015, USD 126.2 million (78 per cent of the total funding needs) has been received.

UNICEF greatly appreciates the contributions that have been received to date from DFID/UKAID, OFDA/USAID, ECHO/European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, SIDA, the Governments of Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates, OCHA, and the Danish, Japan, Swedish, Swiss and UK Committees for UNICEF, as well as the US Fund for UNICEF, and the private sector.
### Programme Results

#### UNICEF and Pillar/Sector Results for Ebola Response

**Sierra Leone, 28 October 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Pillar / Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Target</td>
<td>Actual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EPIDEMIOLOGY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Ebola children who lost one or both parents/primary caregivers</td>
<td>8,624</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households reached with interpersonal communication on Ebola prevention</td>
<td>886,480</td>
<td>2,017,296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotspot communities reached by social mobilizers/rapid response teams within 24 hours of detection of Ebola cases in the past week</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiefdoms reporting resistance/reticence to cooperating with frontline workers in the past week</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebola-related resistance/reticence incidents reported in the past week</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population surveyed who indicated discriminatory attitude towards Ebola survivors</td>
<td>&lt;3%</td>
<td>38% 1,286/3,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of population surveyed who rejected alternatives to traditional burials/funerals</td>
<td>&lt;3%</td>
<td>12% 437/3,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY CARE CENTRES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCs established</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCs functional</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCs decommissioned</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebola community, treatment and holding centres with essential WASH services</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCCs provided with essential WASH services</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Ebola health centres in Ebola-affected areas provided with hand washing station and/or WASH support</td>
<td>1,162</td>
<td>1,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People benefiting from household WASH kits in Ebola-affected areas</td>
<td>420,000</td>
<td>259,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHILD PROTECTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebola-affected children provided with minimum package of psychosocial support (PSS) services</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>40,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered children who lost one or both parents/primary caregivers due to Ebola and child survivors of Ebola who received a minimum package of support/nationally agreed package, including family tracing and reunification or placement in alternative family based care</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,460 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HEALTH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health structures in Ebola-affected areas provided with Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) supplies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community health workers trained in Ebola prevention and case management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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4 KAP Survey, December 2014
5 This was a one off activity carried out by UNICEF on behalf of the cluster
6 Due to a reporting error, the table in the Sitrep for 28 August 2015 included inaccurate figures for this result. The figure for the 26th should have been 1,967
| Children 6-59 months immunized against measles during the measles campaign | 1,240,601 | 1,205,865 | 97.2% |
| HIV/AIDS | 7 |
| HIV positive pregnant/breast feeding women receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission | 1,142 | 916 | 80% |
| Exposed new born provided with antiretroviral (ARV) for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) | 900 | 155 | 17% |
| HIV positive children under 15 continuing to receive ART | 539 | 300 | 56% |
| NUTRITION | 9 |
| Ebola patients receiving nutrition support | 3,200 | 6,165 | 193% |
| Children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment | 18,885 | 19,709 | 104% |
| EDUCATION | 10 |
| Radio stations broadcasting emergency learning programmes | 41 | 41 | 100% |
| Teachers trained in providing psychosocial support (PSS) | 36,000 | 28,338<sup>a</sup> | 78.7% | 19,000 | 18,997 | 99.9% |
| Teachers trained in Ebola prevention | 36,000 | 18,338 | 50.9% | 19,000 | 8,997<sup>a</sup> | 47.4% |
| Schools provided with replenishment of minimum hygiene package | 2,083 | 1400 | 67.2% |
| Children supported to access education in emergency | 8,900<sup>b</sup> (5,000<sup>10</sup> Emergency, 3900 pregnant girls) | 8400 (4500 Emergency, 3900 pregnant girls) | 94.4% (90% Emergency, 100% pregnant girls) |
| Children enrolled in schools equipped with minimum hygiene package | 416,600<sup>11</sup> | 280,000 | 67.2% |

**Next Situation Report: 11 November 2015**

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<sup>7</sup> The measles campaign for Sierra Leone targeted children 9-59 months  
<sup>a</sup> Complete package of Teachers training in PSS, EVD prevention including school protocol and guidance notes. The target has been revised  
<sup>9</sup> UNICEF has completed school based training in 4400 schools and waiting for the data from the field on actual # of teachers trained. The target has been revised  
<sup>10</sup> Teenage Pregnancy targeting approximately 3,900 pregnant girls and approximately 5000 children affected by flood and other emergency  
<sup>11</sup> Derived from schools equipped with minimum hygiene package during replenishments multiplied by average of 200 students per school